

NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO



A LOOK
BACK AT

MARCH 2021
WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

Spring-like weather kicked off March with dry conditions and above normal temperatures. A quick-moving system brought 4 to 10 inches of snow to the SW San Juans on March 4th with rain in many of the valleys. A strong and slow moving area of low pressure impacted the region from March 12-15 and brought moderate to heavy snow to the mountains. Generally 20 to 30 inches of snow fell across the higher elevations of the Eastern Uintas with a foot or more of snow in the S/Central CO ranges. Warm and dry conditions prevailed for several days in the wake of this system before a series of storms brought unsettled weather back to the region towards the end of the month. March ended on a dry and breezy note as a strong cold front moved through on the 29th.

March was on average drier than normal across the region as 7 out of the 10 automated stations found at airports across E UT/W CO ended the month with below normal precipitation. March was either cooler or warmer than normal across the region depending on where you were located with mean temperatures ranging anywhere from up to 2 degrees above normal or up to 1 degree cooler than normal.



MARCH 2021

CLIMATE SUMMARY



TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOTE: all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 airports across the area. Some observers in more remote areas may have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than mentioned in this summary.

PAGE #	PAGE TITLE
1	Cover
2	Table of Contents
3	Story of the Month
4	Temperatures
5	Precipitation
6	Total Monthly Precipitation
7	Monthly Precipitation Departure from Normal
8	Drought Conditions as of March 30 TH
9	Snowpack Conditions as of April 1 ST
10	Next Month Outlook

STORY OF THE MONTH

12-15 MARCH WINTER STORM

A very strong and slow moving area of low pressure impacted the region for several days. As the low slowly lifted south of the Four Corners, significant moisture wrapped around the low and advected into the area, favoring the southern mountains at first and then favoring the northern and central mountains as flow turned to the north. Heavy snow fell in the mountains with some ranges estimating 30 to 40 inches of snow. Winds gusted up to 55 mph at times.



Snowfall totals during the bulk of the 12 - 15 March Winter Storm

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TEMPERATURES



Location	Average Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	31.6 (+0.7)	56 on 3/19	-5 on 3/1
Cortez, CO	39.4 (+0.2)	67 on 3/20, 29	11 on 3/1
Craig, CO	33.9 (+1.6)	63 on 19-20, 29	1 on 3/1
Durango, CO	37.0 (-0.4)	63 on 3/19-20, 29	12 on 3/1
Grand Junction, CO	43.7 (-0.2)	73 on 3/29	16 on 3/1
Meeker, CO	34.2 (-0.9)	61 on 3/20, 29	3 on 3/1
Montrose, CO	41.4 (+0.3)	67 on 3/19-20	14 on 3/1
Rifle, CO	40.7 (+1.1)	69 on 3/29	12 on 3/1
Canyonlands Airport, UT	44.1 (-0.3)	74 on 3/29	12 on 3/1
Vernal, UT	39.6 (+1.7)	66 on 3/8, 20, 29	15 on 3/1



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PRECIPITATION



Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	1.40	+0.08
Cortez, CO	1.24	+0.05
Craig, CO	1.14	-0.15
Durango, CO	0.63	-0.62
Grand Junction, CO	0.53	-0.39
Meeker, CO	1.42	+0.13
Montrose, CO	0.27	-0.75
Rifle, CO	0.59	-0.61
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.26	-0.51
Vernal, UT	0.49	-0.19

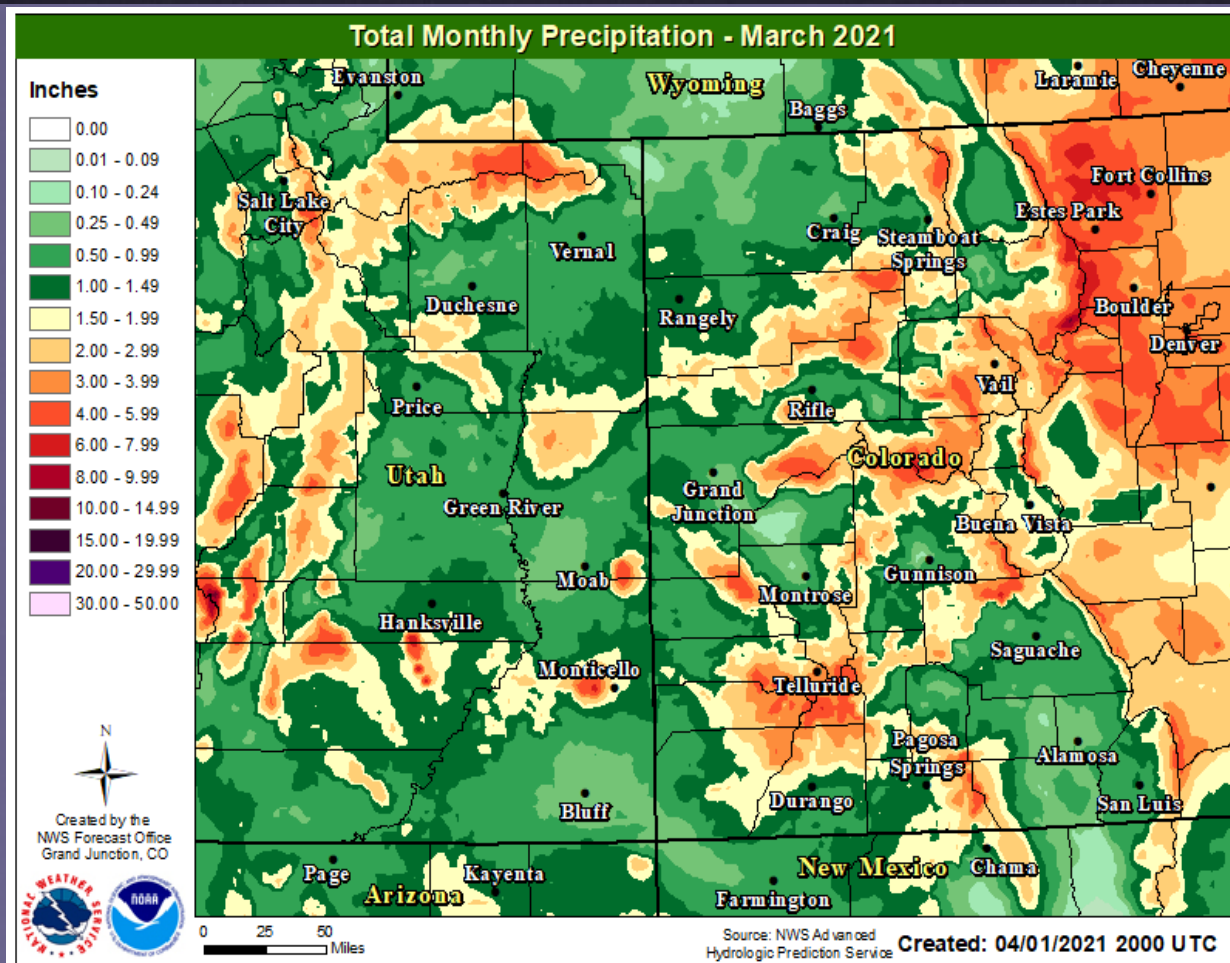


MARCH 2021

CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION



MARCH 2021

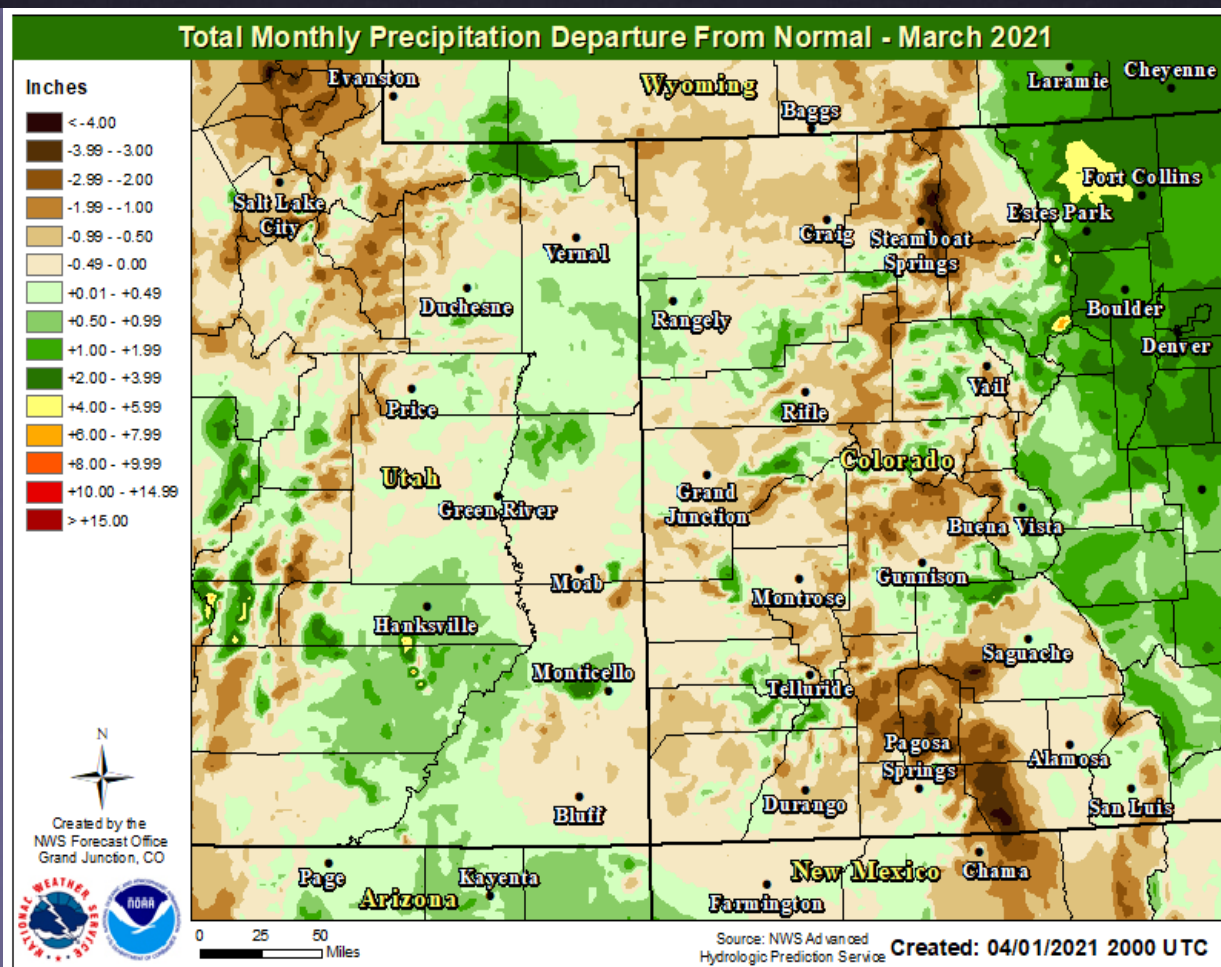
CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL
MONTHLY

PRECIPITATION

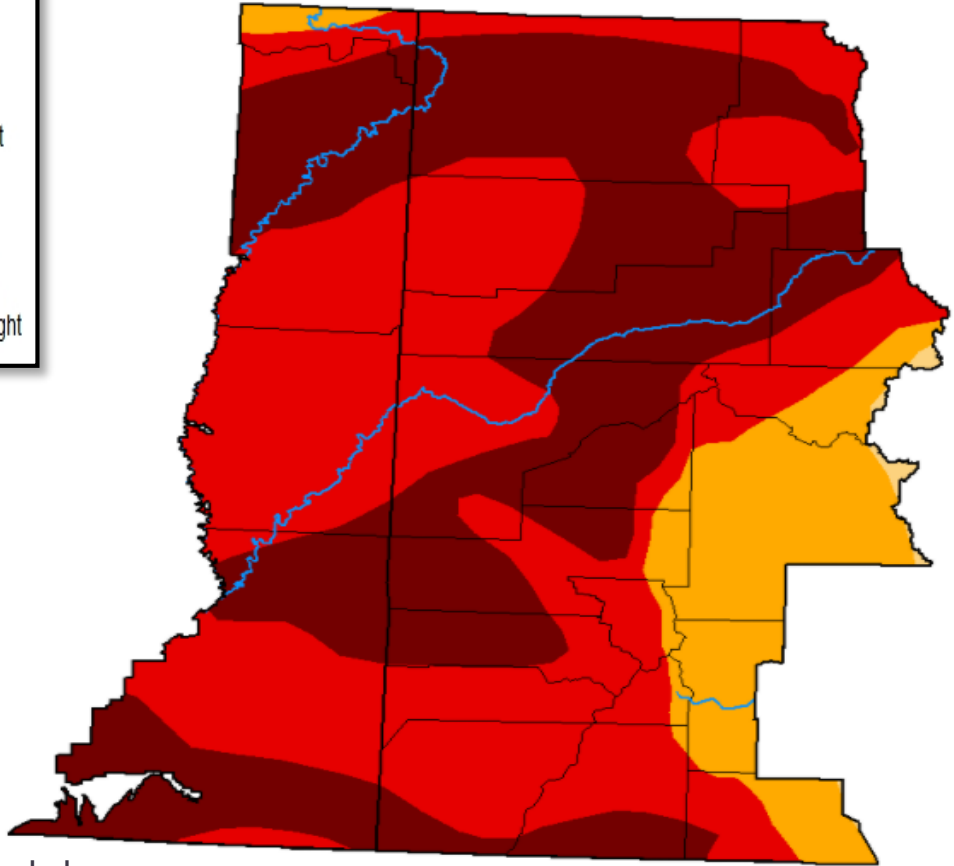
DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL





Extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) drought conditions persisted across the majority of eastern Utah and western Colorado throughout March. An exception was across portions of Pitkin, Gunnison, Ouray, San Juan, Hinsdale, Archuleta and Daggett counties where the severe (D2) drought prevailed.

Intensity:

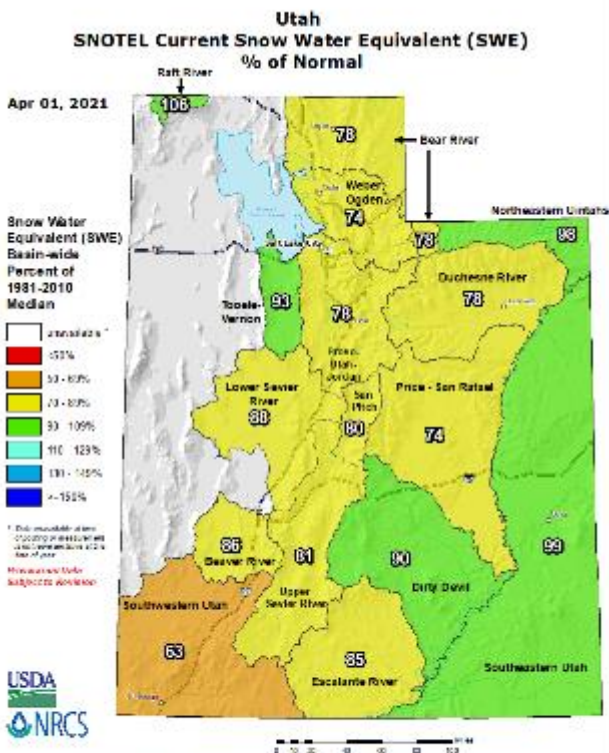


Source:
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

SNOWPACK CONDITIONS

UPDATE

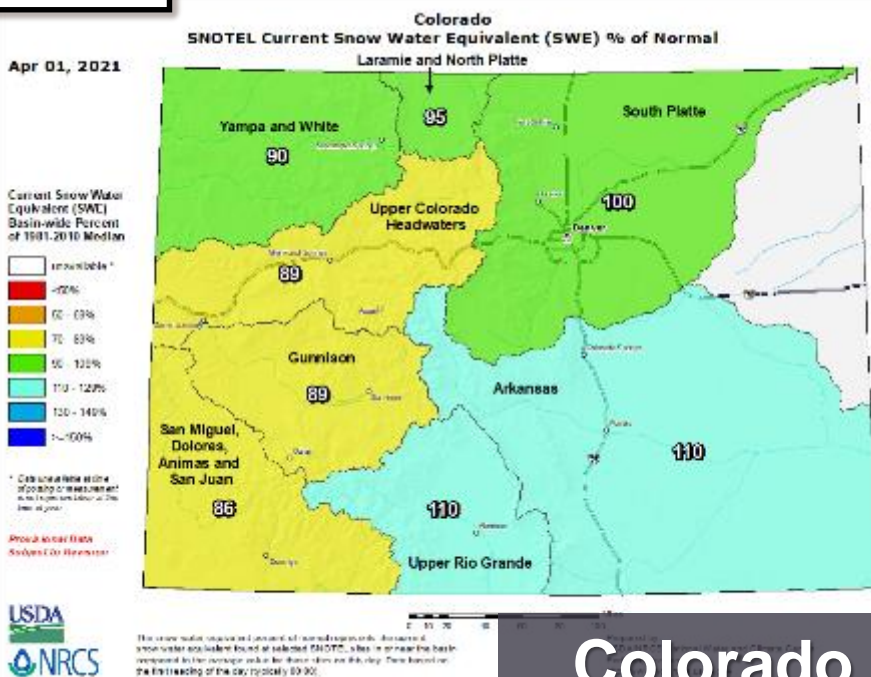
AS OF APRIL 1ST



For Utah...The snowpack for the eastern Utah basins is around 98-99% of normal.

For Colorado...The snowpack for the western Colorado basins is 86 to 95% of normal

Utah

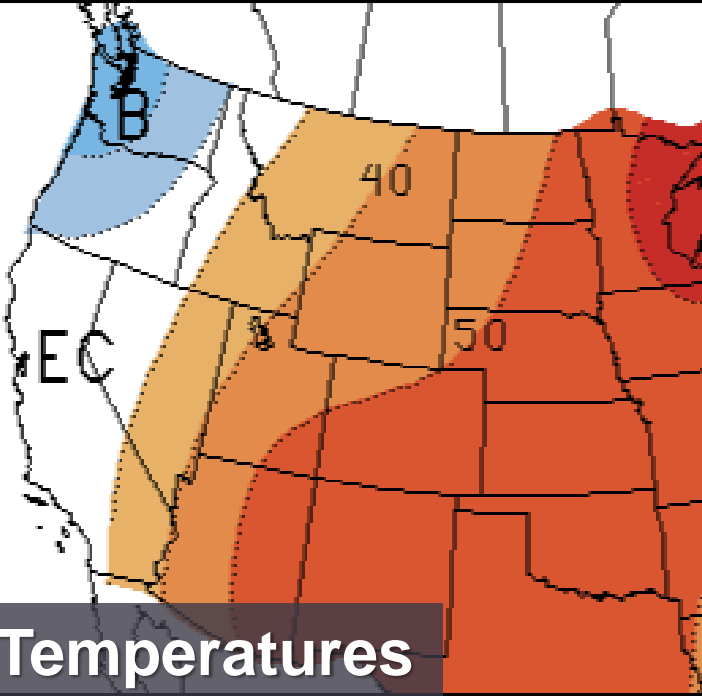


Colorado

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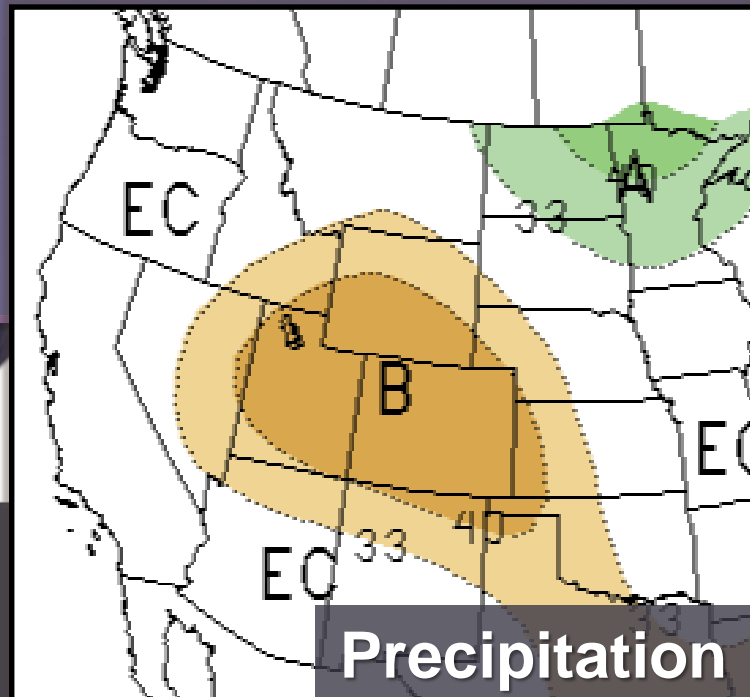
OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION



Temperatures

For April, the latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) shows odds favoring warmer than normal temperatures across eastern Utah and western Colorado as well as below normal precipitation.



Precipitation